MARVEL

#3

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VENOMVERSE

MARVEL INHUMANS
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WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALL-CRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

DURING A ROUTINE BATTLE WITH A SUPER VILLAIN, VENOM WAS TELEPORTED TO A DISTANT WORLD WHERE HE FOUND HIMSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH NONE OTHER THAN A VERSION OF ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** *WHO HAD BONDED WITH A VENOM SYMBIOTE!*

EDDIE LEARNED THAT HE'D BEEN DRAFTED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST A MYSTERIOUS SPECIES CALLED ***POISONS*** *THAT HUNTS SYMBIOTIC SUPER HEROES AND STEALS THEIR POWERS IN THE PROCESS. WITH THE AID OF DOCTOR STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS FORMED A SMALL RESISTANCE.*

HOWEVER, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SPIDER-MAN WERE CAPTURED AND TURNED BY THE POISONS, AND WITH DEFEAT LOOKING INEVITABLE, DEADPOOL WILLINGLY SURRENDERED TO THE POISONS AND ALLOWED THEM TO CONSUME HIM!

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IT'S... NOT WHAT WE...

WHAT *THEY*...

...EXPECTED.

THE *WEAPON*...

...STRIPPED OF ITS WILL...

...THE *HOST*...

...ABSORBED TO FUEL THE *CATABOLISM*...

ALWAYS THE OUTCAST...

...BUT NOW...

...TO BE PART OF SOMETHING *GREATER*...

...IT *HURTS.*

HURTS SO GOOD!

DEADPOOL-- WELCOME TO THE *HIVE.*

YOU HAVE BEEN REBORN, AND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL HAS BEEN UNLOCKED.

WHO'S YER BOY?

ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO SERVE?

WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WE CAN STRIKE A DECISIVE BLOW AGAINST THE RESISTANCE.

CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THEY ARE HIDING?

YOU BET, CAP.

"HAPPY TO HELP."

ALL RIGHT. ALMOST DONE HERE.

I THINK I'VE WORKED OUT *MOST* OF THE BUGS. 'CEPT *ONE*, OF COURSE. SCOTT'S *ANT-SIZED* AND FINISHING UP THE WIRING.

WE FIND THE POISONS. WE HIT THE DETONATOR. WE WATCH THEM *BURN*.

BROCK AND STRANGE SEEM CONVINCED THEY'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL TURN THE TIDES.

YOU SURE *ANOTHER* BOMB'S NECESSARY?

MJ, WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TO AS MANY WORLDS AS ME...

...WHEN YOU'VE FOUGHT IN AS MANY *HOPELESS WARS*, YOU LEARN ONE THING.

EXPLOSIVES ARE *ALWAYS* NECESSARY.

WELL, HERE'S HOPING I SPLICED THE CORRECT WIRES TOGETHER.

I *ASSUME* I DID, SINCE WE ALL DIDN'T JUST DIE FIERY DEATHS.

IT'S NOT *FIRE* YOU'D HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, ANT-MAN, MUCH AS IT MAY HURT OUR *SYMBIOTES*.

THIS *THUMPER* UNLEASHES SO MUCH *CONCUSSIVE FORCE*, IT WOULD'VE VAPORIZED OUR FLESH AND BONES BEFORE THE FLAMES EVER TOUCHED US.

COMFORTING.

"YOU THINK THEY GOT HIM?"

YOU THINK THE POISONS GOT DEADPOOL?

IT'S POSSSSSIBLE.

OR MAYBE HE JUST LEFT US TO DIE AND WANDERED OFF IN SEARCH OF FROZEN BURRITOS OR CHIMICHANGAS OR WHATEVER.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

DEADPOOL *REEKSSS* OF *SSSIN*, BUT NOT OF *EVIL*.

...

NAH.

THEY GOT HIM.

JUST LIKE THEY GOT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

JUST LIKE THEY'RE GONNA GET *US*.

NOT WITHOUT A *FIGHT*.

STRANGE HAS A *SSSECRET* WEAPON--

DON'T GO THERE, ROBBIE.

THAT WAS *BROCK'S* IDEA.

HE'S NOT WHAT YOU'D CALL AN *EXPERT STRATEGIST*.

"THIS PLAN OF HIS SOUNDS EVEN *RISKIER* THAN FACING THE POISONS HEAD-ON."

I CAN *SENSE* HIM.

AND YOU'RE RIGHT.

HE IS VERY STRONG-WILLED.

HE'S RESISTING.
HE'S ELUSIVE.
ERRATIC.
SOUNDS LIKE OUR GUY.
REEL HIM IN, DOC.
EVERYBODY ELSE, BRACE YOURSELVES.
I'M REACHING THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.
BUT IT IS LIKE WATER SLIPPING THROUGH MY FINGERS.
N-NO... NOT WATER.
BLOOD.
THIS IS WRONG.
WE MUST STOP THIS... UNDO THE SUMMONING.
BELAY THAT, STRANGE.
WE'RE OUT OF OPTIONS. VENOMS ARE BEING PICKED OFF AS FAST AS YOU CAN 'PORT THEM IN.
YOU WANTED A NUKE, PANTHER.
THIS IS IT.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, BROCK. OTHERWISE, IT'LL BE OUR FUNERAL.
IT...IS DONE.

I DON'T KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE...

...OR WHERE YOU GOT THE GUMPTION TO PULL ME AWAY FROM MY REGULARLY SCHEDULED SATURDAY-NIGHT ***SLAYING***...

...BUT YOU'RE GONNA ***REGRET*** IT!

YOU DONE CALLED UP SOMETHING YOU AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO PUT DOWN!

YOU DONE CALLED

CARNAGE.

CARNAGE... CLETUS...I KNOW THIS IS *UNSETTLING.*

BUT HEAR ME OUT.

DON'T DO ANYTHING *CRAZY.*

WE BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE WE *NEED* YOU.

WE NEED YOU TO *KILL.* FOR US.

YOU... AIN'T MY DADDY.

YOU LOOK LIKE HIM... *SMELL* LIKE HIM... BUT YOU *AIN'T* HIM.

I JUST BET, THOUGH--

--THAT YOU'LL **DIE** LIKE HIM!

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.

WE NEED YOU.

YOU WANT SOMEONE TO MURDER, WE'LL GIVE YOU THAT IN SPADES!

DON'T YOU WORRY, NOT-DADDY.

WHOEVER THEY ARE, I'M SURE I'LL GET TO THEM.

BUT-- *YOU* FIRST!

WHAT IS THIS?

SO MANY VENOMS! IS IT CHRISTMAS MORNING?

JUST SAY THE WORD...AND I'LL CUT HIM DOWN.

WE MUST SUBDUE HIM.

WE MUST MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND.

CLETUS-- YOU'RE MAKING IT REAL TOUGH TO PULL MY PUNCHES!

DON'T YOU DARE!

DON'T YOU DARE GO EASY, DADDY-O!

DON'T YOU CHEAT ME OUT OF THIS!

YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE THIS BLOODBATH YOUR ALL?

AGH--

I'LL COME BACK WHEN YOUR HEAD'S IN THE GAME!

GONNA BE BLOOD.

SO MUCH DAMN BLOOD.

GONNA PAINT THE TOWN RED.

SCLIGKT!

OH, HELL--

OOOOOH!

A GIRLY-TYPE WITH A DADDY SYMBIOTE OF HER OWN!

AND WITH CLAWS, TOO!

AIN'T TODAY JUST FULL OF WONDERFUL SURPRISES?

RAAGH!

SLISH!

CHNK!

SLGK!

CHG-THUNK!

GUYS! WE'VE GOT TROUBLE! WE--

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, SWEET THING!

OOOOO-WEEE!

GONNA TRY'N FILE ON?

BRING IT!

I BET ONE OF YOU HAS THE KILLER INSTINCT--

WHA-KKOOOM!

HIT THEM HARD AND FAST!

THEY WEREN'T READY FOR US!

DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RECOVER!

C-CAP--

AW, DREK! I FIGURED THEY GOT HIM. BUT I'D HOPED I WASN'T GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO *SEE* IT.

HOLD ON NOW. IS *THIS* WHO YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO KILL? A BUNCHA MESSED-UP SUPER HEROES?

REEEAAARGH!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

IF YOU'RE GONNA GIVE THIS HERE DOG A TREAT...

SSSSGGGLLLLLK!

...LET HIM KNOW HOW MUCH MEAT'S GONNA BE ON THE BONE!

THEY'VE CALLED IN A RINGER!

HIS CLAWS-- CUT RIGHT THROUGH US!

THEY'RE RATTLED!

DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RECOVER!

DID YOU SEE THAT?

THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO TOUCH HIM!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, SON.

BUT OUR FIGHT'S NOT WITH YOU.

YOU THINK THAT MATTERS TO ME?

HII--
THAT'S IT!
PUT UP A FIGHT CAP'N!
LET CARNAGE HAVE HISSs FUN!
WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE WHILE THE POISONSSs ARE DISTRACTED!
FLAME-HEAD'S RIGHT!
I'M NOT WASTING MY NEW BOMB TO COVER OUR ESCAPE!
I'M SAVING IT FOR A RAINY DAY!
WHAT?
NNNNN--
I DON'T LIKE THESE VARIABLES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE OTHERS!
GET WHAT WE CAME FOR AND MOVE OUT!

...THE STRAIN OF BRINGING CARNAGE THROUGH...

...NOT RECOVERING QUICKLY ENOUGH...

REEEAAAARRRRGH!

...BUT MY WARDS ARE INTACT...

...Y-YOU'LL NOT HAVE ME...

WHY WAS I EVER AFRAID?

IT'S SO CLEAR NOW... WHAT THEY WANT... WHY THEY NEED US!

AND I HAVE BECOME SO MUCH MORE THAN I WAS!

I AM--

DEAD! DEAD! DEAD!

THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!

DEAD AS ANY DEAD THING I'VE EVER MADE--

SLLLGGGK!

HRRRGGK--

Aaaa

HEY-- IS THAT IT? DID THEY HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE?

DON'T WORRY, CLETUS. THERE'LL BE MORE.

YOU STICK WITH US, THERE'LL BE PLENTY.

SOUND OFF. WHO'S STILL WITH US?

LOOKS LIKE MOST OF US CAME THROUGH UNSCATHED.

EXCEPT THIS GUY. I MESSED HIM ALL UP!

HIS NAME WAS ROBBIE.

THAT RIGHT? WELL, I'LL BE SURE TO BLOW IN A SNOT RAG IN HIS HONOR WHEN I FEEL LIKE SNIVELING.

EVERYONE-- WHERE IS DOCTOR STRANGE?

"DID ANYONE SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?"

THEY HAVE CALLED SOMETHING...NEW TO THEIR DEFENSE.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

IT WAS FAST...VICIOUS... UNPREDICTABLE.

ITS TOUCH...ITS CLAWS AND BLADES...

...IT CUT THROUGH US WITH EASE.

IT WAS THE COLOR OF ***BLOOD***. I HEARD ONE OF THE HOSTS CALL IT--

CARNAGE.

YOU KNEW NOTHING OF THIS?

HEY! THEY NEVER TOLD DEADPOOL *ANYTHING!*

NO MATTER.

WHAT OF YOUR *PRIMARY OBJECTIVE?*

WE *SUCCEEDED,* SIR.

WE HAVE THE SORCERER.

HE IS WEAK.

THE SPELLS HE'S BEEN CASTING HAVE DRAINED HIM.

I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE LONG BEFORE WE BREAK THROUGH HIS MYSTIC DEFENSES.

SHOW ME.

THIS WAY. IT'S CLEAR.

WHERE TO NOW?

NOT. SURE THERE'S ANYWHERE WE CAN GO. THEY'LL FIND US.

THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO FIND US.

LET THEM! I'M READY TO GET MY CLAWS WET!

HEY--WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE MURDEROUS HAYSEED SHTICK A REST FOR A FEW MINUTES, HUH?

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SO SUCCESSFUL AS A SERIAL KILLER?

DO YOU JUST ANNOY PEOPLE 'TIL THEY'RE BEGGING YOU TO PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY?

YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE, CARNAGE.

JUST COOL IT FOR NOW.

YOU AND ME AIN'T DONE, DADDY.

I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT

IT'S JUST THAT THESE OTHER FELLAS ARE MORE FUN TO KILL THAN YOU ARE.

WELL SOMEBODY'S GOING TO COME UP WITH A PLAN, RIGHT?

CARNAGE IS A GOOD ***WEAPON,*** BUT HE MIGHT CUT OUR THROATS IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL.

WE'VE LOST OUR WAY OFF THIS PLANET...AND OUR MEANS OF BRINGING IN ***REINFORCEMENTS.***

WE NEED SOME SORT OF ***STRATEGY...***AND IT BETTER BE A GOOD ONE.

REINFORCEMENTS.

SONOVA--

STRANGE HASN'T JUST BEEN BRINGING IN SOLDIERS FOR THIS WAR OF HIS...

"...HE'S BEEN BRINGING THEM ALL THE *FOOD* THEY COULD EVER *WANT!*"

STEPHEN, MY DARLING.

JUST LOWER YOUR WARDS FOR ONE MOMENT.

I ONLY WANT TO TOUCH YOU.

TO *COMFORT* YOU.

YOUR DISGUISE IS POINTLESS.

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FOOL THE OTHERS.

I, HOWEVER, CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THE *ILLUSION.*

I SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU *REALLY* ARE.

YOUR POWERS ARE GREAT, DOCTOR.

BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST US FOREVER.

WE ALL *HAD* MAGICAL DEFENSES.

AND WE *ALL* SUCCUMBED.

BUT NONE OF YOU WERE THE **SORCERER SUPREME.**

NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, WAS **I.**

VICTOR.

YES.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I'D FIND **YOU** AMONG THE POISONS.

HEY, DOC.

REMEMBER ME?

LOOK, I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW...BEING PART OF THIS...IT'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU MIGHT THINK.

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE HOLD NO ILL WILL TOWARD YOU.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO **COOPERATE** WITH US, SO BE IT. IF NOT, WE WILL EVENTUALLY **CONSUME** YOU.

ALL THIS TIME, YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONING WARRIORS TO FIGHT US...ALL THESE VENOM SYMBIOTES FROM ACROSS TIME AND SPACE.

AH, YES. I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, DON'T YOU, STEPHEN? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN **SAVING** THESE SYMBIOTES FROM US...

...YOU'VE BEEN BRINGING THEM TO THEIR **DESTINY.**

TO BE CONTINUED...

Don't miss...

VENOMVERSE

ZONE